

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 935
By Kernell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend WREC 600 AM Radio for its coverage of the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

WHEREAS, it is rare that a man has as much influence on the world as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, born January 15, 1929, the first son of Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., Dr. King graduated from high school at the age of 15, and from Morehouse College at the age of 19; and

WHEREAS, he married Coretta Scott in 1953 and, in 1955, he received his doctorate of philosophy in Systematic Theology from Boston University; and

WHEREAS, at age 26, and after having received more than a dozen honorary doctorates from various Universities and Colleges, Dr. King was made the official spokesman in the historic bus boycotts throughout the South; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King is most remembered for his heartfelt and thought-provoking speeches, including the *I've Been to the Mountaintop* speech, which inspired the masses to protest the unfair treatment of blacks; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was a vital personality of the modern era. His lectures and remarks stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation. The movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life; and

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WHEREAS, his courageous and selfless devotion gave direction to thirteen years of civil rights activities, and his charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in the nation and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's concept of *somebodiness* gave black and poor people a new sense of worth and dignity; and

WHEREAS, his philosophy of nonviolent, direct action, and his strategies for rational and non-destructive social change, galvanized the conscience of this nation and reordered its priorities, as evidenced by the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, sadly on April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life was brought to a senseless and tragic end as he was fatally shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, April 4, 1998 marked the 30th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, an important event that attracted great media attention, with the Memphis media in particular, providing a unique retrospective into the extraordinary life and time of this inimitable man; and

WHEREAS, WREC 600 AM radio is one such member of the Memphis media whose coverage of the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. provided its listeners with complete and decisive information concerning the event; and

WHEREAS, the April 3rd broadcast was anchored by Paul Davis and Sharon Hunter, and included interviews with Reverend Samuel "Billy" Kyles and Dr. Benjamin Hooks, as they reflected on the events in Memphis 30 years ago; and

WHEREAS, WREC broadcasted the entire Mason Temple Commemorative Service live that evening, which included speeches from Jesse Jackson and other dignitaries, with commentary by Craig Robbins at the Mason Temple; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 1998, WREC again did live broadcasts from the Cook Convention Center with Craig Robbins, Paul Davis and Rodger Beasley broadcasting in the studio; and

WHEREAS, various guests where interviewed with Paul at the studio and Promotion Director, Diane Hampton interviewing such guests as activist Dick Gregory, Congressman Harold Ford, Jr. political columnist Jackson Baker from the *Memphis Flyer*, the *Commercial Appeal's* John Beifus, and many others dignitaries; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we commend WREC 600 AM for their dedicated coverage of the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.